GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:560
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
PROPOSAL TO REMOVE MOCHI COMMUNITY FROM THE LIST OF SC
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had a meeting with the Ministerof State, Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India on January 20,2000 to expedite a decision on the proposal to remove `Mochi` community from the list of Scheduled Castes of Gujarat is pending with the Ministry since July, 1977;

(b) if so, whether the Union Minister assured the State Government that the proposal will be expedited;

(c) if so, the reasons for pending the proposal with the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which a final decision on the proposal is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Government of Gujarat proposed to impose area restrictionin respect of `Mochi` community and retain it in the list of Scheduled Caste onlyin Dangs District and Umergaon Taluka of Valsad District. The State Governmentdid not propose to remove `Mochi community form the list of Scheduled Castesin the entire State of Gujarat. This proposal along with other proposals for modification in the list of Scheduled Castes as incorporated in the Constitution(Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill 2002,was considered and passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes)Orders (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 has been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part II on 18.12.2002.